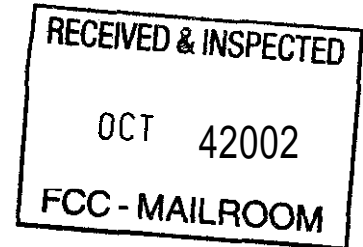




NATIONAL INDIAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS INSTITUTE
110 N. GUADALUPE, SUITE 10, SANTA FE, NM 87501
VOICE 505 986-3872 FAX 505 989-4271
[HTTP://WWW.NITI.ORG](http://www.niti.org) SEND EMAIL TO: [INFO@NITI.ORG](mailto:info@niti.org)

October 2, 2002

Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 - 12th Street, SW
Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554



RE: In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company
Board of Directors - CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Regarding the nomination of Karen Buller to the USAC Board of Directors in the position representing low-income consumers and per instructions in the September 9, 2002 FCC Public Notice, enclosed you will find:

1. An original and four (4) copies of New Mexico Public Regulation Commission Chair Lynda Lovejoy's nomination of Karen Buller along with five (5) copies of Ms. Buller's biographical information.
2. An original and four (4) copies of Urban Indian Education Research Center CEO Dr. Linda Sue Warner's nomination of Karen Buller along with five (5) copies of Ms. Buller's biographical information.
3. An original and four (4) copies of Native American Rights Fund Chair Wallace Coffey's nomination of Karen Buller along with five (5) copies of Ms. Buller's biographical information.

If you require other information, please contact this office. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Carla Lopez
Administrative Assistant

No. of Copies rec'd
LIST ABOVE

Enclosures as cited

NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS

DISTRICT 1 HERB H. HUGHES, VICE CHAIRMAN
DISTRICT 2 RORY McMINN
DISTRICT 3 JEROME D. BLOCK
DISTRICT 4 LYNDIA M. LOVEJOY, CHAIRWOMAN
DISTRICT 5 TONY SCHAEFER



1120 Paseo de Peralta
P.O. Box 1269
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

September 26, 2002

Dear USAC members:

In the matter of Nominations for Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors

FCC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96045

I am pleased to again nominate Karen Buller for the position on the Board of Directors of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). Ms. Buller's reappointment will result in uninterrupted service on the Board in her current position representing low income consumers.

Ms. Buller, a member of the Comanche Nation, is the founder, President, and CEO of the National Indian Telecommunications Institute (NITI). She is a nationally recognized expert and leader in the area of Native Americans and telecommunications. I am confident that Ms. Buller will continue to serve the Native American population and other underserved minorities with competence and distinction.

As the only Native American member serving on the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission, I am proud to nominate Karen Buller and to be retained on the Board.

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lynda M. Lovejoy".

Lynda M. Lovejoy
Chairwoman and Commissioner

Karen Radney Buller

Karen Radney Buller is a member of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma. She is the President and CEO of the National Indian Telecommunications Institute (NITI), a non-profit organization dedicated to employing advanced technology to serve American Indians, Alaskan Natives, and Native Hawaiians in the areas of education, economic development, language and cultural preservation, tribal policy issues and self-determination. Ms. Buller is **an** advocate for education, telecommunications, and Indian issues.

She began her teaching career at Haskell College (now Haskell Indian Nations University). In **1982** Haskell students voted Buller Haskell's outstanding faculty award for her teaching excellence and commitment to Indian students. She has served on many parent and teacher boards in her current home city Santa Fe, NM and is well known by New Mexico legislators for her work towards education reform for New Mexico schools.

Buller is a recognized telecommunications expert in Indian Country. She has testified before both houses of the U.S. Congress and the FCC on the Telecommunications Act of **1996** and Universal Service and its impact on Indian communities. Buller is currently serving as a member of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Board **of** Directors. Buller was nominated by US Senator Pete V. Domenici and appointed by FCC Chairman Michael Powell. USAC governs the E-rate, Lifeline & Link-up and Rural Health programs.

Buller, "an early adopter" of the Internet, saw the potential of using the Internet to improve education for all students, but especially for Indian children. Her work at NITI ties together her passions for advancing Indian communities using the power of telecommunications to its fullest potential, and improving education for all children.

NITI's on-going projects continue Buller's efforts to support Indians through the use of advanced technology. Some of these projects are:

- A partnership with the Navajo Education Technology Consortium on a five-year project to provide web-based cultural curriculum training to school districts with high Navajo enrollment in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. This project is funded by a **1998** U.S. Department of Education Technology Education Challenge Grant and a Star Schools Grant.
- NITI is creating an interactive CD of the Comanche Dictionary for the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma. This innovative CD will serve as a model for other tribes also wishing to use technology for language preservation.
- NITI's Virtual Museum Project designed and built a virtual web museum for the New Mexico State Museum of Indian Arts and Culture based on their ***Here, Now, and Always*** exhibit (<http://www.herenowalways.org>) which was curated by Native Americans. NITI also trained members of New Mexico's **22** tribes to make virtual museums using the ***Here, Now and Always*** model. This project was supported by the US Department of Commerce's Technology Innovation and Infrastructure Assistance (TIIAP) Program, The Rockefeller Foundation and Native American Systems, Inc.

- NITI hosted *Digital Council Fires: A Native American Telecommunications Conference*, in 1999 in Albuquerque, NM. The conference provided a forum for tribal people to discuss telecommunications access and content issues in Indian Country. Support for the conference was provided by the Ford Foundation.
- NITI's Legal Education & Assistance Program for Indian Telecommunications (**LEAPIT**) provides legal advice and consultation to Indians nationwide on a variety of telecommunications issues. This program is funded by the Ford Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation and the Open Society Institute of the **Soros** Foundation.
- NITI's publication *Making Technology Our Own, Toward Affordable Connectivity in Indian Country* assists Tribes to make informed decisions about telecommunications issues. This publication was the result of a 2-year project supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the MacArthur Foundation.